

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 as follows:

(Amended) An optical fiber array, comprising: a holding member including a substrate having sectional V-shaped housing grooves formed thereon for housing optical fibers on a top face, said optical fibers each having an optical fiber tip end bare portion housed in said holding member; a cover plate positioned on the substrate; and an adhesive provided between the substrate and the cover plate to fix the optical fibers in the housing grooves, wherein a distance between a center axis of the outermost housing groove and an end portion of the substrate is at least five times larger than the radium of the optical fibers, and a distance Y between the substrate and the cover plate is $L / 6 \leq Y \leq L$, wherein Y is a thickness of the adhesive and L is a distance from a contact point between the housed optical fibers and the housing grooves to the cover plate.

2. (Amended) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 1, wherein a height of a portion of the optical fibers which protrudes from the housing grooves on the substrate is substantially equal to the distance Y between the substrate and the cover plate.

5. (Amended) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 1, wherein a width of the cover plate is different from a width of the substrate.

6. (Amended) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a placement face for placing a covered portion of the optical fibers provided at a rear part of a housing groove forming face, and a step provided between the housing groove forming face and the placement face for placing and housing the optical fibers.

Please add new claims 7-16 as follows:

7. (New) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 2, wherein the distance Y between the substrate and the cover plate is $L / 4 \leq Y \leq L$.

8. (New) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 2, wherein the adhesive is epoxy-based.

9. (New) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 3, wherein the adhesive is epoxy-based.

10. (New) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 2, wherein a width of the cover plate is different from a width of the substrate.

11. (New) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 3, wherein a width of the cover plate is different from a width of the substrate.

12. (New) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 4, wherein a width of the cover plate is different from a width of the substrate.

13. (New) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a placement face for placing a covered portion of the optical fibers provided at a rear part of a housing groove forming face, and a step provided between the housing groove forming face and the placement face for placing and housing the optical fibers.

14. (New) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a placement face for placing a covered portion of the optical fibers provided at a rear part of a housing groove forming face, and a step provided between the housing groove forming face and the placement face for placing and housing the optical fibers.

15. (New) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a placement face for placing a covered portion of the optical fibers provided at a rear part of a housing groove forming face, and a step provided between the housing groove forming face and the placement face for placing and housing the optical fibers.

16. (New) An optical fiber array as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a placement face for placing a covered portion of the optical fibers provided at a rear part of a housing groove forming face, and a step provided between the housing groove forming face and the placement face for placing and housing the optical fibers.